



Missouri's Coal Mine Regulatory Reduction And Abandoned Coal Mine Lands Reclamation Funding

An Uncertain Future



The Budget and Staffing Picture



The Budget - House Bill 6

Land Reclamation Program - Personnel Services

- Staffing reduced from 36 to 28 full-time employees
- General revenue reduced from \$279,211 to \$104,563
- Federal or other funds set at \$596,105
- Metallic minerals fund set at \$63,885
- Coal Mine Land Reclamation Fund set at \$50,632
- Mined Land Reclamation Fund set at \$194,862



What the Missouri Legislature Intended To Do: Fund 28 Staff

- Return the coal regulatory program to OSM
- Fund 4 staff for coal bond forfeiture reclamation
- Fund 1.8 staff for metallic minerals waste management
- Fund 6.6 staff for industrial minerals regulatory management
- Fund 15.6 staff for federal fund activities



Resulting Departmental LRP Reductions

- The Land Reclamation Program was reduced to 24 staff
- The general revenue lost was match for federal funds
- Federal funds could only immediately fund 11.6 of the 15.6 intended
- The program can only fund 24 of the 28 intended positions



What the Missouri Legislature Action Resulted In

- Return the coal regulatory program to OSM
- Fund 4 staff for coal bond forfeiture reclamation
- Fund 1.8 staff for metallic minerals waste management
- Fund 6.6 staff for industrial minerals regulatory management
- Fund 11.6 staff for federal fund activities (AML)



The Coal Regulatory Picture



What Will Not Get Done: Permits

- Pending Permit Applications:
 - The CCI Permit Application for Cottonwood Creek was deemed complete on July 18. The technical adequacy review was then transferred to OSM for final action.
- Timely responses to active coal company needs:
 - There are currently 52 permit revision reviews pending at this time
 - OSM will probably take 3-4 months to organize and begin reviewing permit revisions in an effective manner



What Will Not Get Done: Inspection and Enforcement

- OSM currently has one inspector for three states
- The State of Missouri had three (3) full time inspectors
- OSM will not be able to fully meet the inspection needs at this time
- There are currently over 19,500 mined acres under some phase of liability that require monthly inspections
- The disposition of pending actions has not yet been determined



Good Things Missouri Has Accomplished

- Conducted over 5400 inspections since 1992
- 249 inspections of surface coal mining sites in FY '03
- Addressed over 2100 violations of regulations and statutes since 1978
- Responded to over 85 formal, written, citizen complaints since 1984
- Ensured complete, productive, reclamation of over 8,000 acres of land mined for coal since 1982
- Accepted responsibility to reclaim an additional 8,000 plus acres of land mined for coal that were abandoned by coal permit holders since 1982

Active Coal Mine Reclamation



Active Coal Mine Reclamation





The AML Picture



Abandoned Mine Lands Program

- A federally funded staff of 11.6 operates the AML Program
- This entire program is at risk without a Missouri coal regulatory program



AML Requirements

- Eligibility for AML requires a coal regulatory program
- A coal regulatory program requires staff and funding
- The loss of general revenue was a set back that could be managed
- The legislative intent to return the coal program to OSM cannot be managed
- Missouri will not be able to retain the Abandoned Mine Lands Program